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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
Albania

SUBJECT
Economic Conditions in Albania

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Many former Albanian nationals now residing in the US regularly send money to relatives in Albania to provide for their existence. Many of these US residents send as much as US\$100 regularly each month. One man recently sent a lump sum of US\$5,200. Estimating 60 thousand former Albanian nationals in the US large sums in US dollars are regularly being received in Albania. The Government in Tirana encourages the receipt of US dollars by providing an exchange of 30 leks to the dollar. However, on the black market as much as 650 leks can be obtained. 50X1-HUM
2. Albania, conditions are very bad. Despite the fact that US dollars are received regularly by persons having relatives in the US, there are apparent shortages of basic food items. Letters frequently ask that flour, rice, oil, butter, etc, be sent to them, because the duty is very low on such items. This indicates shortages in items in which Albania was once rich. 50X1-HUM
3. Still Albanian propaganda indicates that the country has everything. Despite the propaganda, few can afford to purchase necessary items. Second hand clothing shipped to relatives in Albania is highly taxed because the Government does not want the free world to know how desperately clothing is needed. 50X1-HUM
4. a young man who has been imprisoned for the past 12 years was released with others to expedite the work on the canalization project of Lake Ferbafi, a project designed to provide for more growing land. another indication of a desperate food shortage. 50X1-HUM

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